

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (withdrawn) A system for applying a decorating image onto a trash receptacle, the trash receptacle having a wall with an exterior surface, comprising:

- a) a decorative image being disposed on the exterior surface of the wall of the receptacle to permit the appearance of the trash receptacle to be enhanced; and,
- b) wherein said decorative image is free form drawn on the trash receptacle.

2. (withdrawn) The system of Claim 1, wherein said decorative image is traced on the trash receptacle.

3. (withdrawn) The system of Claim 2, wherein said decorative image is stamped on the trash receptacle.

4. (withdrawn) The system of Claim 3, wherein said decorative image is painted on the trash receptacle.

5, (withdrawn) The system of Claim 4, wherein said decorative image camouflages the trash receptacle.

6. (withdrawn) A system for applying a decorative image onto a trash receptacle, the trash receptacle having a wall with an exterior surface, comprising:

- a) a covering being disposed on the exterior surface of the wall of the receptacle to permit the appearance of the receptacle to be enhanced, said covering having front and back surfaces, said back surface being disposed contiguous to the wall of the receptacle;
- b) an adhering substance being disposed on said back surface of said covering so

that said covering is secured to the trash receptacle; and,

c) a decorative image being disposed on said front surface of said covering to permit the appearance of the trash receptacle to be enhanced.

7. (withdrawn) The system of Claim 6, wherein said covering comprises vinyl.

8. (withdrawn) The system of Claim 7, wherein said decorative image is painted on said covering.

9. (withdrawn) The system of Claim 8, wherein said decorative image is printed on said covering.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for applying a decorative image onto a trash receptacle, the trash receptacle having a wall with an exterior surface, ~~in combination, the system~~ comprising:

a) a protective sleeve being disposed around the exterior surface of the wall of the receptacle, said sleeve being shaped complementarily to the receptacle, said sleeve having top and bottom ends and having inner and outer cylindrical walls, said inner and outer walls being joined together at the said bottom end so as to form a U-shaped cross-section between said inner and outer walls sleeve being open at said top end and having a channel formed between said walls, said sleeve having at least one aperture therein, said aperture for receiving a handle of the trash receptacle, said protective sleeve being ~~annular in shape and~~ open at the bottom end ~~for receiving the trash receptacle therethrough~~, said bottom end being above a bottom of said trash receptacle;

b) a placard being removably disposed in said channel of said sleeve through said opening at said top end of said U-shaped cross-section said placard ~~and protective sleeve~~ having ~~corresponding~~ openings corresponding to said at least one aperture in said protective sleeve for a handle of the trash receptacle to be accessible from outside of said protective

sleeve; and,

c) a removable, annular top cap, U-shaped in ~~cross-section~~ cross-section, disposed on said top ~~end~~ of said protective sleeve overlapping a top edge of said trash receptacle and both walls of said protective sleeve so as to form a watertight seal to permit the placard to be protected; and

d) a decorative image being disposed on said front surface of said placard to permit the appearance of the trash receptacle to be enhanced.

Claims 11-12. (canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 10, further comprising a gasket being disposed between said top cap and said sleeve to form a watertight seal.

14. (canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A trash receptacle system comprising:

a) a cylindrical trash receptacle having a closed bottom and a top opening, with handles on opposite, outer sides of said receptacle:

b) a transparent protective sleeve disposed around the outer sides of said receptacle, said sleeve extending from said top opening to just above said closed bottom, said sleeve having top and bottom ends and having inner and outer cylindrical walls being joined at the said bottom end so as to form an annular U-shaped cross-section between said inner and outer walls sleeve and being open at said top end of said U-shaped cross-section formed by said inner and outer walls forming a channel between said walls;

c) a cylindrical shaped placard removably disposed in said channel of said sleeve;

d) a removable, annular top cap, U-shaped in ~~cross-section~~ cross-section, overlapping a top edge of said trash receptacle and both walls of said protective sleeve so as to form a watertight seal to permit the placard to be protected;

- e) said sleeve inner and outer walls and said placard having matching openings through which said handles extend for allowing said handles to be grasped from outside of said protective sleeve; and
- f) a decorative image being disposed on an outer surface of said placard visible through said transparent protective sleeve to permit the appearance of the trash receptacle to be enhanced.